GOD HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN US?

Brothers and sisters, “The time for Jesus is now!” Father I thank Thee that Thou hast heard me, glorify Thy name in the midst of Thy people, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Men and women to whom the message of truth is spoken seldom ask, “Is it true?” But they ask, “By whom is it advocated?” Many people estimate the message of truth by the numbers who accept it. And the question is still asked, “How many of the learned men or religious teachers believed?” Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that people are no more favorable to real godliness now than in the days of Jesus. Men and women are still seeking earthly goods, to the neglect of eternal riches, and it is not an argument against the truth that large numbers are not ready to accept it, and we the young people of the ___ church believe that Jesus Christ is coming soon, “the time for Jesus is now,” and this time we ask, “God have you forgotten us.”

This isn't a message of hate! It's a message of hope! And as I preach this message, I plead with you to ask yourself, “Is it true?” During this Week of Prayer, it is not my intention to see how much can be done by the speaker, because I believe with all my heart that more will be accomplished this week by praying than by preaching. And I ask that you would please give this week a chance. So if you get though listening before I get through preaching – wait for me.

In the ghettos of the United States there is a growing awareness of the necessity of self-development and self-improvement. This is the internal revolution, and within the Black community it's causing a new awareness of the dignity and worth and importance of the individual.

Kyle Haseldon, a white southern theologian, wrote a book called *The Racial Problem in Christian Perspective*. And that theologian said, “It's true the white man used Christianity to oppress Black.”

Now I believe that brothers and sisters, but there is a point I want to make in defense of the Lord Jesus Christ..

The Black man has remembered that he was enslaved by a so-called Christian nation. Our fathers served under men who were as mean as the Devil all week, and get dressed up every Sunday and went to church. Religious people who called themselves Christians; ardent church people. And often when they went to church they heard sermons preached. Sermons that suggested the Black man was cursed because he bore the “mark of Cain”. You've heard that! And I've heart it! And whenever a man stands up and says that in the pulpit, he is trying to make God a partner in racism.

Today as Blacks remember those days, there is a growing loss of confidence in Christ, and in Christianity. There are some who declare, “Christ doesn't care about Black people, Christianity is irrelevant, it cannot serve us, it cannot help us!” And so we find our people turning radical, and turning

away from the one true friend who has never let them down. What I'm trying to say to you is this: Jesus Christ is being blamed for all the terrible things that have happened to us, instead of being given credit for the relief that we have experienced.

Brothers and sisters, this is a fact, and those of you who live in Tampa know its a fact. There is among us today a developing idea that we should have a new theology, a Black Theology. I don't believe we need a new theology or a Black Theology, all we need to do is start living the truth of this Book together, and all of this stuff will disappear once men commit themselves to the ways of the Lord.

Is Christ to blame? Is it Jesus' fault that men have used Christianity to oppress us? Let's turn to the Bible. The Bible says that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1). And if you continue to read you will discover that God made two people. How many? Two only. Their names were Adam and Eve. In Genesis 3:20, the Bible says, “And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” So every man that walks on the earth is kin to every other man. In Acts 17:26, the Bible says God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth,...”

Now brothers and sisters that's what the Bible say! And that's either the truth or a lie! It's one or the other. If it is the truth, then let's believe God. If it's a lie, let's get rid of the Bible and religion altogether, and forget the whole thing. For if we can find one lie in God's word, I can't trust any of it!

In Genesis 6, we read of a strange wickedness and crime and violence developing on the earth! It sounds like our day, doesn't it? In fact, Jesus said, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the son of man be.” Matthew 24:37. A time of violence! A time of crime! A time of carnality! A time of rascality! A time when men and women are more interested in indulging and satisfying the flesh than they are in doing the things of God! Because of this unusual wickedness, the time eventually came when God told Noah and his family to go into the Ark. And once they were in, God shut the door. And once the door was shut no one could get in. And God sent a flood. And every living creature, in whose nostril was the breath of life – died! Now the Bible says that and I believe it. And it doesn't only say it in the old testament, because 2 Peter 2:5 and 3:20 says only eight souls lived.

What I'm saying to you is: God started out with two people, they had a son named Cain. Cain killed his brother, Abel, and he did wear a mark of God's displeasure. But when the flood came, every child of Cain died in the flood. How then could Black people be the descendants of Cain and wear some mask that Cain had? It doesn't make sense.

Brothers and sisters we are all kin by blood. We all descended from eight souls. All races are related by blood whether red, yellow, black or white.

Did God curse the Black man? Noah had three sons; they were Ham, Shem and Japheth. Ham,

generally speaking is the father of the dark races. Shem, generally speaking is the father of the Jews, the Arabs, and so forth. Japheth, generally speaking, is the father of the Caucasian races.

In Genesis 9:20, Noah got drunk after the flood and was laying around naked. (Man does stupid things when he drinks – I slipped that one on you, didn't I?) And the Bible says that his son Ham and his grandson Caanan laughed at him. But the other sons seeing the problem, got a garment and turning backwards unless they see their father's shame, covered him. When Noah got sober he pronounced a curse on Caanan. Caanan was the son of Ham. Now I want you to follow me: Did God curse Black people because Noah pronounced a curse on Caanan?

Now we Black people are sons of Ham. But Noah did not curse Ham. Read it for yourselves. Noah pronounced the curse on Caanan, and Caanan was Ham's son. And Ham had four sons: Mizraim, Caanan, Phut, and Cush. And Black peoples in Africa are Cushites and Phutites. The Caananites were destroyed when Israel took the Holy Land. So Black people came from Phut and Cush and no curse was pronounced upon them. It was pronounced upon their brother Caanan.

Now the children of Ham didn't inherit the land which we call Africa today. But what many Black people don't understand is their own heritage. There's some design to this. Folks didn't want you to understand your heritage. When they tell you you're cursed, they want you to believe it. When they tell you you're stupid, they want you to believe it. And so there has been repression, they have kept back the facts. And many of us are not acquainted with our own heritage.

The Black people were the mighty people of earth in the days of yore. They became builders. And their names are in the records of history. They built Ninevah and Babylon. They built ships and formed navies. They built the tower of Babel. There were great Black states in Africa when Europe was a sparsely developed forest full of ruthless barbarians who ran around half naked and ate flesh warmed under the saddles next to their horses skin. All you've gotta do is read history. Read about the Vikings, the Druids, and the Hunos. At that time the Blacks had iron tools and cloth and the alphabet, etc. The mighty Egyptians, not the Arabs now, the Egyptians were Hamitic people which built the Pyramids which are mighty wonders to still be seen today. Herodotus, the secular father of history said that the original Egyptians were black with woolly hair. You don't miss that, do you? That's soul. The Egyptians of today are largely Arabs or sons of Ishmael. For hundreds of years Black people rode the crest of power.

But something happened! They forgot God. Prosperity has a way of doing that to people. The more money folks have, the less they need to go to church, you know that's the truth, don't you? The more opportunities we get, the more paganized we become! We're getting to the place where we think it's smart to laugh in the face of God. And so as these people prospered, as they ruled the earth in those

days, they forgot God and began to worship idols.

Now the Bible says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to my people.” Proverbs 14:34. Pride goeth before a fall. Righteousness exalteth a nation. But whenever a nation turns its back on God, the nation might as well look out, destruction is coming!

Babylon, a Hamite nation and mightiest of empires was overthrown by the Medes and the Persians. The Medes and the Persians were overthrown by the Greeks under Alexander. The Greeks were overthrown by the Romans. None of these nations worshiped the true God or were faithful to Him. In fact, Rome put Jesus to death. But it was after that that the glory of the Caesars was spoiled. By these Barbaric Caucasian hordes riding out of Europe and sacking Rome. And in 476 A.D. Rome was totally crushed.

What's this saying to us? In Daniel 2:21 the Bible says, God setteth up kings and takes them down. People thrust their fists into the face of God, they laugh at Him.

Khrushchev said one day, our space men have been in outer space. They have looked through their space capsule window. They have seen constellations; they have seen meteorites, they have seen stars. But they have never seen God. And then he gave a laugh.

Brothers and sisters, you can't find God peeping through a space capsule. And because they didn't see Him doesn't mean that He isn't out there. The Russian Cosmonauts didn't see Him because they didn't believe in Him, but I believe in Him, He's out there. And I can feel Him tugging at my heartstrings now and then. He stopped me from smoking one day. He's out there! He stopped me from cursing one day! He's out there!

God is not subjected to the opinion of man. Because people don't believe in Him doesn't change Him. They can like it or not like it, He's there and they're gonna have to meet Him one of these days! What I'm trying to say is while the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing behind the helm of the world's affairs His Almighty God quietly working out the counsels of His own will. And when God gets ready things happen. And until God gets ready, no man alive, no politician alive, can save us from where we are headed. You can vote democratic, you can vote republican, it doesn't matter! It's not up to man to save the earth. And if men don't learn to trust God, I pity what the United States is going to come. So these Black nations were humbled. They had ridden the top of power for centuries. But they were largely destroyed and no longer exist. And millions of people fled from Babylon to Nineveh and other great Hamitic nations into parts of Africa and through degradation, they roamed the jungles as heathen worshiping crocodiles and thunder and snakes and rivers. Our people had fallen from Grace.

Out of that setting many of our people were brought to this country as slaves living under terrible bondage in a land reputed to be “a land of the free” and a “home of the brave.”

Rich men owned our parents just like you owned a caver a home. I don't need to go into the details because you're already acquainted with them. And when they owned enough of us, they became richer than ever. Our people worked in the fields and in their homes. They toiled through blood and sweat and tears to help develop this nation and make it what it is. At the same time it was against the law for them to learn the alphabet, to learn to read. And I ask today, where was God? What was God doing? Brothers and sisters through it all God was working.

For God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform, He plants Hos feet above the waves, and rides upon the storm.

When you wonder where God was all you have to do is go back to ancient Israel. They were slaves for four hundred years but God didn't forget them. And when time came He:

confounded a king, He opened up the sea, He drowned an army and set His people free.

God is not measured by days and hours, for God is eternal! And even though our people were suffering, God was on His throne. And God was watching. God was looking. And God already had in mind what He was going to do.

And something wonderful began to happen among our people. You know when I look back I'm convinced that there's something unique about Black people. Ordinary folks can't take suffering like we had to take it and come out with their brains intact. People today who go through what we had to go through rise up against their government. But our people have a nobility about them.

So while our people were being abused and while their masters tried to dehumanize them, they were at the same time getting reacquainted again. And they began to sing those spirituals that have become a part of our American heritage. When he would come home to his hut at night, the load had been unbearably hard, the whip of the tyrant had split his back. He laid on his cot, he looked through the roof and saw the stars, and he thought about God and he began to sing “Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world.” The time for Jesus is now.

When that Black man had to sleep on a dirt floor at night, he got to thinkin' about what he heard from the word of God, that Jesus is going to save him one day in His kingdom, and that man began to sing “Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.” The time for Jesus is now.

Ignorance was still his plague because he wasn't allowed to read. But the Bible says, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7). You don't have to go to college in order to be a Christian, in order to be intelligent, and in order to be wise. I thank God though that we have people going to college today. But on the other hand, anybody who is willing to acknowledge God and study His word is on his way to being wise. And so when the Black man began to think on God and talk to Him, he would sing, “I want Jesus to walk with me.” And as the master heard his sing, the master got

scared, because he knows that there's a text in the Bible that says, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” And he knew that a man who got acquainted with God could not forever remain a slave. He got scared when he heard the Black men praying, so he called him aside and said, “John, what do you know about God? You can't even read.” John said, “That's right Cap'n, but it's like this, “Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray!”

The Black man had learned to pray. He had learned to talk and to trust God. I wanna tell you something, that still works. When you're being mistreated by folks to whom you've done nothing, it helps you to know how to talk to God. The Black man had learned to do this and God said, “turn him loose!” But the white man didn't want to let him go. After all, he was earning his living by the sweat of that Black man's brow.

A series of events took place until finally after much bloodshed in a terrible war of judgment which punished the South for slavery and the North for allowing it, finally in 1865 God! Who did I say? In 1865 God set the Black man free.

It's not fair to blame God for the work of racist hypocrites! It's not fair to blame Jesus for what the “so-called Christians” have done. Sinful man take flowers and make dope out of them. You can't blame the flowers. I tell you, you can't blame Jesus because folks claim a life Christians and live like devils!! Don't blame the Master's vineyard because they're a few sour grapes in it. Everything Jesus said, everything He taught, everything He lived, everything He believed was opposed to all this racist hogwash of discrimination, segregation, hatred, and apprehension. People are judging Jesus and claining He was no good and they've never read the Bible. Folks are always condemning the word of God, because it condemns them. They haven't even read the Bible, and they go around saying, Jesus is not relevant.

I want you to know brothers and sisters that it was Christians who took the lead in fighting slavery. Men like Roger Williams, a Christian minister, George Fox, Theodore Weld, John Westley, Benjamin Rush, Samuel Hopkins, John Brown, Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy, Jesse Jackson, Christ hadn't forgotten us, He was helping us by leading these Christian preachers.

From the earliest of times, Christianity has given birth to the idea of human dignity. Man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

When Greece ruled the world, you could buy a man for $90.00. When Rome ruled the world, you could buy a man for $30.00. Then came Jesus transforming men. And under the power of the “Christian idea,” slavery fell into disrepute. And today in Christian lands, you can't buy a man at any price. One man is worth many worlds. The value of the whole world sinks into insignificance in comparison to the value of one man. And even when Africa had began to awaken it wasn't because of

businessmen or scientists. These had been there for years, but they exploited Africa. But it was because of Christian missionaries who went in with their free schools and their free hospitals.

Now there have been a lot of mistakes in Christian countries, but don't judge Christ by the hatred of hate-filled men!

Where are we headed? I'm sorry to tell you that a lot of us are going straight to hell with our hatred, our bitterness, our unbelief, our drugs, our violence, and our crime.

But in Revelation 7:9, John the Revelator saw the very end of time and he said, “After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no one could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb ...” Some of us are going to do right! Some of us are going to trust God! Some of us are going to remain Christians! And some of us are going home with Jesus when He comes, and brothers and sisters, “the time for Jesus is now!”